

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
SSM-03 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 EB-08 HA-05
/107 W

-----085180 231258Z /45

R 221529Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0989
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1438

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, IS, JO
SUBJECT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS RE ISRAELI WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS

REF: JERUSALEM 1419

1. FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED RECENTLY RE
ISRAEL'S WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS.
(A) NABI SALIH--PALESTINIANS FROM NEARBY ARAB VILLAGES
HAVE PETITIONED ISRAELI SUPREME COURT TO STOP DEVELOPMENT
ON LAND WHICH THEY CLAIM TO OWN. QUAKER LEGAL AID CONSULTANT
JIM FINE, WHO ASSISTED WITH CASE, TELLS US ARABS' LAWYER
HAS ARGUED, INTER ALIA; (1) THAT EXPROPRIATION WAS IMPROPERLY
DONE, E.G. NO WRITTEN NOTICES WERE SENT TO ARAB LANDOWNERS,
(2) THAT SUCH EXPROPRIATION IS ILLEGAL UNDER JORDANIAN LAW
SINCE A SETTLEMENT DOES NOT PROMOTE THE PUBLIC INTEREST AS
WOULD A ROAD, HOSPITAL ETC. AND (3) THAT SETTLEMENTS PER SE
ARE "ALIAN, UNKNOWN, AND UNACCEPTABLE" ACCORDING TO JORDANIAN
LAW. FINE IS OPTIMISTIC THAT WORK CAN BE STOPPED TEMPORARILY,
BUT CONCEDES THAT COURTS WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY RECOGNIZE
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ISRAEL'S OVERRIDING POLITICAL INTEREST
AND RULE EXPEDITIOUSLY IN SETTLERS' FAVOR. HEARING IS SET FOR
MAY 25.

(B) EFRAT--VOA CORRESPONDENT HAS BEEN TOLD BY GOI MINISTERIAL
SOURCE THAT PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF EFRAT WOULD BE LOCATED
SEVERAL KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF ELAZAR WHICH ROUGHLY CORRES-

PODS TO SITE LOCATED REFTTEL. IF TRUE, EFRAT WOULD NOT, REPEAT NOT, BE IDENTICAL WITH GUSH ETZION'S EXISTING REGIONAL CENTER--ALLON SHEVOT--LOCATED SOUTH OF ELAZAR.

(C) HARIS--"HA'ARETZ" (LITANI) REPORTS MAY 19 AS REPLAYED IN ARAB PRESS THAT ISRAELI SECURITY OFFICIALS ADMIT THAT 1,000 DUNUMS HAVE BEEN EXPROPRIATED FOR SETTLEMENT OF HARIS. ARABS IN THE AREA HAVE CLAIMED TO THE NABLUS MILGOV THAT 10,000 DUNUMS HAD BEEN EXPROPRIATED, LITANI REPORTS.

(D) SHOMRON AND NAHAL MA'ALE--"AL QUDS" REPORTED MAY 19 THAT ARAB NOTABLES FROM DAYR SHARAF, SABASTIYAH AND BAYT UMRIN HAVE COMPLAINED TO MILGOV OF WIDESPRED LAND CLOSURES. THE ARABS HAVE REPORTEDLY ASKED THE MILGOV NOT TO USE LAND FOR EXPANSION OF ARMY CAMPS. (COMMENT: VILLAGES ARE IN VICINITY OF SHOMRON LOCATED IN AN IDF MILITARY CAMP AND NAHAL MA-ALE (SILAT AZ ZAHRA).

(E) SAL'IT--ARAB PRESS REPEATS STORY FROM "YEDI'OT AHARONOT" MAY 18 THAT CIVILIANS, AFFILIATED WITH BNAI BRITH, PLAN TO SETTLE AT NAHAL SAL'IT, PREVIOUSLY A MILITARY SETTLEMENT. SOME 50 FAMILIES, MOSTLY PROFESSIONALS WHO HAVE IMMIGRATED FROM THE WEST, PLAN TO PURSUE, WITH HELP FROM BETAR/HERUT, AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND EDUCATION IN A BNAI BRITH COLLEGE TO BE BUILT ON THE SITE.

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(F) TAPUAH--"AL QUDS" REPORTS MAY 22 THAT FIVE GUSH EMUNIM FAMILIES HAVE MOVED INTO NAHAL TAPUAH. (COMMENT: THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST CIVILIAN PRESENCE AT THE SITE.)

(G) MITZPE JERICHO--"HA'ARETZ" (LITANI) REPORTS MAY 19 THAT THE DEPARTURE OF A MAJORITY OF FAMILIES AT MITZPE JERICHO (IDENTIFIED AS LOCATED 8 KILOMETERS EAST OF MA'ALE ADUMIM) HAS PROMPTED A VISIT BY AN OFFICIAL OF THE SETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT OF THE AGMIN. PREVIOUS DAY "HA'ARETZ" REPORTED THAT RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF MA'ALE ADUMIM AND MITZPE JERICHO WILL BE MOVED WESTWARD TO THE VICINITY OF JERUSALEM. ONE REASON FOR THE MOVE WILL BE TO PREVENT ARABS FROM BETHANY AND ABU DIS FROM UNAUTHORIZED CONSTRUCTION IN THAT AREA, LITANI REPORTS. (COMMENT: MOVE WOULD ALSO PRESUMABLY COMPLETE CIRCLE OF ISRAELI HOUSING ESTATES AROUND JERUSALEM.)

(H) TEKOAH--BEIT SAHUR'S MAYOR INFORMS US THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF PRE-FABRICATED HOUSES HAVE BEEN TRANSPORTED THROUGH HIS TOWN WITHIN THE PAST WEEKS AND LOCATED IN NAHAL TEKOAH SOUTH OF HERODION.

2. COMMENT: ABOVE REPORTS INDICATE FOLLOWING GENERAL TRENDS: FIRST, ACCELERATION OF SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY ON THE WEST BANK ALTHOUGH IN THE FORM OF CONSOLIDATION OF EXISTING SITES RATHER THAN CREATION OF NEW ONES; SECOND, CIVILIANIZATION OF MILITARY SITES; THIRD, INCREASING EXPROPRIATIONS AND LAND CLOSURES FOR SITES ALLEGEDLY ESTABLISHED IN MILITARY CAMPS; AND FOURTH INCREASINGLY ORGANIZED AND VOCAL ARAB OPPOSITION. CONTRARY TO PREVAILING TRENDS, WE NOTE REPORTS OF OCCASIONAL EXODUSES FROM SETTLEMENTS; RECENTLY AT MITZPE JERICO BEFORE THAT AT NABI SALIH, KIRYAT ARBA AND THE SHORT-LIVED YATTIR.

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